Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for inputting a text comprising:

(a) a step of ~~continuously~~ inputting ~~an~~ a sentence by utterance;

(b) a step of ~~preparing word-string~~ determining candidates of word-strings which consist of one or more words ~~based on one to several words, staring from a beginning~~ of the inputted utterance by speech recognition processing;

(c) a step of displaying the candidates; and

(d) a step of selecting the displayed candidate by a user;

whereby, ~~for a following utterance,~~ the inputted utterance is recognized by which said candidate ~~preparing~~ determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d) are repeated in order on ~~the basis of the selected candidate~~ a unit of the word-string from a beginning of the inputted utterance.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for inputting a text according to claim ~~2,~~ 22, wherein said candidate ~~preparing~~ determining step (b) further having a process to update the candidate due to an acoustic score.

4. (Original) A method for inputting a text according to claim 3, wherein said extension process is ended by reaching of the number of phrase candidates subjected to said extension process a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

5.   (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text comprising:

an input section for inputting an utterance;

an utterance pre-processing section for extracting a feature amount of an utterance of from said input section;

a word candidate preparing section for preparing a following word candidate from a fixed word string by using a language model;

a word-string preparing section for preparing a word-string candidate based on one to several words from the extracted feature amount the word candidate by using at least any one of a language model and an acoustic model;

a display section for displaying the word-string candidate;

an operating section for a user to select the word-string candidate being displayed; and

a candidate-preparation instructing section for instructing said word candidate preparing section to prepare a following word candidate from a word string selected by said operating section.

6.   (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 5, wherein said word-string preparing section prepares a phrase-based candidate by an extension process to repeat word linking according to word-based linkage probability.

7.   (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 6, wherein said word-string preparing section further having an updating process due to an acoustic score.

8.   (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 7, wherein said word-string preparing section ends the extension process by reaching of the number of phrase candidate subjected to the extension process a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

9.   (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 5, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

10.   (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 6, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

11.   (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 7, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

12.   (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 8, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

13.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium for providing a program to repeat in order:

        (a) a step of ~~continuously~~ inputting ~~an~~ a sentence by utterance;

        (b) a step of ~~preparing word-string~~determining candidates of word-strings which consist of one or more words by speech recognition processing ~~based on one to several words, staring from a beginning~~ of the inputted utterance;

        (c) a step of displaying the candidates; and

        (d) a step of selecting the displayed candidate by a user;

        whereby~~, for a following utterance,~~ the inputted utterance is recognized by which said candidate ~~preparing~~determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d) are repeated in order on ~~the basis of the selected candidate~~a unit of the word-string from a beginning of the inputted utterance.

14.   (Cancelled)

15.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium for providing a program according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein said candidate ~~preparing~~ determining step (b) further having a process to update the candidate due to an acoustic score.

16.   (Original) A storage medium for providing a program according to claim 15, wherein said extension process is ended by reaching of the number of phrase candidates subjected to said extension process a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

17.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product to repeat in order:

        (a) a step of ~~continuously~~ inputting ~~an~~ a sentence by utterance;

        (b) a step of ~~preparing word-string~~ determining candidates of word-strings which consist of one or more words by speech recognition processing ~~based on one to several words, staring from a beginning~~ of the inputted utterance;

        (c) a step of displaying the candidates; and

        (d) a step of selecting the displayed candidate by a user;

        whereby~~, for a following utterance,~~ the inputted utterance is recognized by which said candidate ~~preparing~~ determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d) are repeated in order on ~~the basis of the selected candidate~~ a unit of the word-string from a beginning of the inputted utterance.

18.   (Cancelled)

19.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product according to claim ~~18~~17, wherein said candidate ~~preparing~~ determining step (b) further having a process to update the candidate due to an acoustic score.

20.   (Original) A computer program product according to claim 19, wherein said extension process is ended by reaching of the number of phrase candidates subjected to said extension process a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

21.   (New) A method for inputting a text according to claim 1, wherein said candidate determining step (b) determines a word-string on the basis of a language information and an acoustic information of the selected word-strings when there are preselected word strings.

22.   (New) A method for inputting a text according to claims 1 or 21, wherein said word-strings is a phrase built by an extension process to repeat word linking according to a word-based linkage probability on said candidate determining step (b).